



## BRIEFING: Career and Technical Education

### **Goal:**

The goal of Career and Technical Education (CTE) is to prepare students for careers, college, and community involvement in a dynamic and global economy. We are the workforce development component of secondary education.

### **Status:**

CTE is an integral part of secondary education. Many initiatives are underway to collaborate with post-secondary education, business and industry, and other state agencies.

### **Recommendation(s):**

1. Continue to work with schools to develop Pathways linked to economic development in collaboration with community colleges and business and industry.
2. Continue to expand opportunities for seamless transitions to post-secondary education such as early/middle college models, articulated credit, and Career & College Promise with emphasis on CTE credentials and certificates.
3. Implement an endorsement program that recognizes students for completion of CTE programs and earning credentials.

### **Data:**

1. 94% of CTE concentrators graduate from high school within 4 years.
2. Enrollment in CTE courses in middle and high school exceeds 800,000
3. Just over one-half of high school graduates are CTE concentrators (earn 4 or more CTE credits)
4. Over 91,600 industry credentials were earned by CTE students in 2011-2012

### **Issue(s):**

1. Additional support to schools for the development of Pathways is needed.
2. Students need more opportunities for work-based learning experiences.
3. Greater resources at middle school levels would aid students in selecting a path of study in high school and increase opportunities for earning post-secondary credits.
4. The knowledge and skill requirements for jobs change quickly; curriculum must be dynamic and adaptable.

### **Main Points:**

1. CTE is a major component of workforce development.
2. CTE has a proven track record of higher graduation rates, student placement rates and lower unemployment rates.
3. The work of CTE moving forward will have greater connection to workforce and economic development on a regional level and will include the development of Pathway systems with post-secondary partners, business partners, and state agencies.